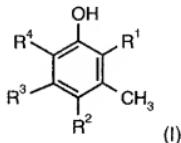


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application, please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for hydrodehalogenating halogenated meta-cresols of the formula (I)



in which the R¹ to R⁴ radicals are each independently hydrogen or halogen, but at least one of these radicals is halogen, comprising:

a) preparing a catalyst by applying one or more salts of palladium and/or platinum and optionally copper salts to an aluminum oxide or titanium oxide support material; and

characterized in that b) contacting the halogenated meta-cresols of the formula (I) with the catalyst are contacted with a catalyst which has been prepared by applying one or more salts of palladium and/or platinum and optionally copper salts to an aluminum oxide or titanium oxide support material, together with hydrogen, at temperatures between 100 and 250°C.

2. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in according to claim 1, characterized in that halogenated meta-cresols of the formula (I) in which wherein at least two of the R¹ to R⁴ radicals are each chlorine are used.

3. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in at least one of according to claim[[s]]

1-and 2, characterized in that it wherein the step of contacting is performed at a temperature of 150 to 250°C.

4. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in at least one of according to claim[[s]] 1 to 3, characterized in that wherein from 0.5 to 50 mol of hydrogen are is used per mole of halogen in the halogenated meta-cresol of formula (I) used.

5. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in at least one of according to claim[[s]] 1 to 4, characterized in that wherein the hydrogen is used in the form of a mixture with an inert gas.

6. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in at least one of according to claim[[s]] 1 to 5, characterized in that wherein the preparation of the catalyst has been prepared by comprises applying PdCl₂, PtCl₂ and/or PtCl₄ to an aluminum oxide or titanium dioxide support material.

7. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in at least one of according to claim[[s]] 1 to 6, wherein the preparation of the catalyst characterized in that the catalyst has been prepared by applying PdCl₂, PtCl₂ and/or PtCl₄ to an aluminum oxide or titanium dioxide support material and additionally further comprises applying CuCl or CuCl₂ to the support material.

8. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in at least one of according to claim[[s]] 1 to 7, wherein characterized in that the catalyst has been is prepared by applying a total amount of from 0.5 to 100 g of one or more salts of palladium and/or platinum and optionally copper salts to one liter of aluminum oxide or titanium oxide support material.

9. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in at least one of according to claim[[s]] 1 to 8, characterized in that it step b) is performed at pressures in the range from 1 to 5 bar and in the gas phase.

10. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in at least one of according to claim[[s]] 1 to 9, further comprising subsequent to steps a) and b):

c) collecting a characterized in that the product mixture of steps b) and present after the hydrodehalogenation reaction is subsequently sent to a providing the same for a subsequent chlorination reaction.